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Department of State

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3357
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OFFICIAL INFORMAL FOR ARA/AND MASON FROM SPILLANE

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: ANGT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

REF: (A) MASON-MCLEAN 1/28 MESSAGE, (B) BOGOTA 922

1. AS YOU REQUESTED, HERE ARE A FEW POINTS YOU CAN MAKE REGARDING ATTACKS ON OIL SECTOR AND OTHER ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

2. BEGIN SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

--ATTACKS ON THE CANON-LIMON PIPELINE AND OTHER OIL SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE (DRILLING RIGS, CAMPS, ETC.) ARE UP SHARPLY IN JANUARY. ATTACKS ON POWER PYLONS REPORTED UP AS WELL. GOLD DREDGES HAVE ALSO BEEN ATTACKED.

--GUERRILLAS CLAIM REASON IS BECAUSE GOC RAISED GAS PRICES AND FOREIGN CORPORATIONS ARE ROBBING COLOMBIA OF ITS RESOURCES.

--ATTACKS DEMONSTRATE ELN STRENGTH IN FACE OF GOC INABILITY TO ENSURE SECURITY IN THE REGION DURING THE RUN UP TO THE MARCH MAYORAL ELECTIONS.

--PROSPECT IS FOR CONTINUED VIOLENCE UP THROUGH ELECTIONS. THEREAFTER, DEVELOPMENT OF SITUATION DEPENDS ON HOW ALL CONCERNED VIEW RESULTS.

--IF FARC/UP AND OTHER GUERRILLA GROUPS FEEL RESULTS WERE FIXED AND/OR THEIR EXPECTATIONS WERE NOT MET, LIKELIHOOD OF GREATER VIOLENCE AND ATTACKS ON ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (NOT JUST PETROLEUM SECTOR) LIKELY.

--CONTINUING GOC PENETRATION INTO GUERRILLA AREAS AND UNDERMINING OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSES THROUGH THE REHABILITATION AND OTHER ERADICATION OF POVERTY PLANS LIKELY TO SPARK VIOLENCE AS WELL.

--IF UP WINS IN AREAS THAT BENEFIT FROM OIL ROYALTIES (I.E. ARAUCA IN PARTICULAR) THEY GAIN FROM KEEPING THE OIL FLOWING. THEY GET RESOURCES TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PLANS IN THOSE REGIONS. IF THEY DO NOT WIN, THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE FROM KNOCKING OUT THE GL PIPELINE AND OTHER OIL INFRASTRUCTURE.

--DESTRUCTION OF BP RIG IS TROUBLESOME. GETTING NEW RIGS IN COUNTRY AND INTO THE EXPLORATION AREAS IS NOT A FAST OR EASY PROCESS. MORE SUCH ATTACKS COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE EXPLORATION EFFORTS ACROSS THE BOARD.

--COMMENT IN BOGOTA 922 GOES INTO MORE DETAIL ON EFFECT OF STOPPAGE OR SHRINKAGE OF OIL EXPORTS.

MCLEAN

RELEASED IN FULL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 23 OCT 2002 200201334

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